

Message Text

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SUBJ: TINDEMANS INTERVIEW WITH AZAP

SUMMARY: OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY AZAP CARRIED INTERVIEW WITH BELGIAN PM TINDEMANS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN BRUSSELS. INTERVIEW WHICH HELD SEPT. 18 AND PUBLISHED SEPT. 20 COVERS BELGO-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS AND THAT THEY CAN BE IMPROVED. END SUMMARY.

1. AS PRELUDE TO HIS VISIT TO ZAIRE, BELGIAN PM TINDEMANS WAS INTERVIEWED SEPT. 18 BY OFFICIAL ZAIRIAN NEWS AGENCY AZAP. FOLLOWING ARE SALIENT POINTS:

2. NOTING HE WOULD BE MEETING MOBUTU FOR FIRST TIME, PM STATED GOAL OF HIS VISIT WAS TO ESTABLISH TIES OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. BASED ON "LIQUIDATION" OF PAST AND ACHIEVEMENT OF LARGE SCALE COOPERATION AGREEMENT SUCH AS TREATIES BETWEEN COMMON MARKET AND THIRD WORLD. COMMENTING THAT ZAIRE WOULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN AFRICA AS WELL AS IN WORLD BECAUSE OF ITS ENORMOUS POTENTIAL, TINDEMANS EXPRESSED THE VIEW IT WOULD BECOME ONE OF BEST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN AFRICA.

3. REFERRING TO BELGO-ZAIRE PROBLEMS, TINDEMANS SAID BELGIUM WOULD HAVE TO BE FLEXIBLE IN MATTERS OF COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE. HE ALSO FELT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO REACH SATISFACTORY UNCLASSIFIED

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SOLUTIONS TO ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND THOSE RESULTING FROM ZAIRIANI-

ZATION. HE NOTED THAT SO CALLED "DOSSIER" REFERRED TO IN "VERS L'AVENIR" WAS MERELY COMPILATION OF THESE MATTERS BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF GOB.

4. TINDEMANS DENIED EQUIVOCAL GOB POLICY TOWARD ZAIRE. HE POINTED OUT HE HEADING COALITION GOVERNMENT WHERE IT NECESSARY TO SEEK COMPROMISES. AS RESULT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN MISUNDERSTANDINGS ON REAL SITUATION IN ZAIRE. SINCE GOB WANTED TO HAVE NORMAL TIES WITH ZAIRE, WITHOUT PATERNALISM, THERE WERE OCCASION WHEN IMPRESSION WAS GIVEN OF LEAVING FIELD OPEN TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

5. REST OF INTERVIEW LAPSED INTO DISCUSSION OF TINDEMANS PRIVATE LIFE INCLUDING WHETHER HE WAS HAPPY TO BE KNOWN AS HAVING STUDIED UNDER SERETARY OF STATE KISSINGER (HE WAS).

6 AZAP ALSO CARRIED EDITORIAL WHICH SEES TINDEMANS VISIT AS MEANS OF ACHIEVING NEW FORMULA FOR FRUITFUL COOPERATION BETWEEN BELGIM AND ZAIRE.

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